



Council

Town Hall
Wallasey

6 July, 2018

Dear Councillor

This supplement for the Council meeting to be held at **6.00 p.m. on Monday, 9 July 2018** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, should be read in conjunction with the Council Summons, dated 29 June, 2018.

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AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

6. LEADER'S, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' AND CHAIRS REPORTS

A. Cabinet Portfolio Summary Report (Pages 1 - 2)

The Council is requested to consider an amendment in respect of the Wirral Plan 2020 Annual Report submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group.

8. VACANCIES

To receive nominations, in accordance with Standing Order 25(6), in respect of any proposed changes in the membership of committees, and to approve nominations for appointments to outside organisations.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

Members' Equipment Steering Group

Councillor Steve Williams to replace Lesley Rennie

10. NOTICES OF MOTION (Pages 3 - 8)

The Council is requested to consider amendments to Notices of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(1) and (9).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. J. ...', is written over the text of the signature line.

Director: Governance and Assurance

Amendment – Leader’s, Executive Members’ and Chairs Reports A. Cabinet Portfolio Summary Report (Item 6A)

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council notes that the Foreword to the Annual Report refers to the original purpose of the Report as giving.....*"open, honest appraisals"* of the Council's *"progress"*.

The document states *"We're also continuing to get the basics right "* (page 4), an impression that is not shared by the public who are able to see, first hand, daily, the weeds and potholes and neglected appearance of their communities.

The key performance indicators referred to in the 2017 MORI survey of Wirral's residents referenced some decline in the satisfaction with local government but clearly stated that ...

"Although Wirral's drop in key measures follows the national trend, it should be noted that, across the board, performance indicators are significantly lower compared to its peers." (Ipsos MORI North, page 11)

The Liberal Democrat Group's concern over 'getting the basics right' was reported in the Wirral Globe on 21 February 2018 (page 30).

The Annual Report for 2016/17 (page 25) promised that in 2017/18.....
".....we will redouble our efforts to improve the public realm....."

The current Annual Report also states.....

"we will redouble our efforts to improve the public realm....." (page 35)

What has doubled is the size of the documentation, from 28 to 56 pages, when residents look for practical action rather than words.

The belated recognition of the need to tackle the state of Wirral is welcome, as set out in the priorities of the 2018/19 Delivery Plan (page 3). The general thrust of the policies and concerns as set out is worthy. It should be noted, though, that:

- (i). the need to place Children's Services on a *'solid'* foundation flows from failings that were not recognised in the 2016 Annual Report;
- (ii). the 2017 Annual Report declared that the Leader was confident that residents would, as a result of the Growth Company, see *"spades in the ground"* ..*"within the next twelve months"*;
- (iii). the Major Project on *"Stronger and more sustainable services"* assures Council that the administration will *"find the most appropriate, sustainable model to deliver parks, leisure libraries and cultural services"*.
It is a year since pre-decision scrutiny was promised at the Call In held on 19 June 2017. There was substantial expenditure on consultants' reports which were only made public after repeated requests.
- (iv). the Key Project 'Keep Wirral Moving' refers to the investment in *"improving"* potholes. Council is anxious that the new in-house arrangements will tackle

this issue. The public simply want the potholes mended with a common sense logical approach.

- (v). the Major Project "creating jobs driving regeneration" refers to the Celtic Manor Golf Resort. Council places on record that it remains sceptical over this project and calls for the publication of all exempt material relating to it.

Council fully understands the uncertain financial climate under which the Council is operating. References to the removal of the Revenue Support Grant and the removal of 'core' grant reinforce the need to work with the Local Government Association to establish a respected and fairer grant funding system. The 'Major Project' does not refer to the consultation undertaken by the Secretary of State on the new funding formula. Council remains anxious that every opportunity should be taken to secure replacement funding.

Amendments to Notices of Motion

The Council is requested to consider the following amendments, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(1) and (9)

(1) **Notice of Motion No. 1 – TACKLING POVERTY AMONG WOMEN AND GIRLS ON LOW INCOMES**

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor David Burgess-Joyce

Seconded by Councillor Wendy Clements

Final paragraph delete ‘.’ and insert:

and, as soon as practicable following our withdrawal from the European Union, applies a zero rating for Value Added Tax (VAT) to all sanitary products.

In the meantime, Council agrees to encourage all appropriate local organisations including ‘Feeding Birkenhead’ to apply for grants from the Tampon Tax Fund, established by the Government, which ring-fences VAT receipts from sanitary products to support projects working with women and girls.

(2) **Notice of Motion No. 2 – KEEPING WIRRAL PARKS AND COASTAL AREAS AVAILABLE FOR THE MANY NOT THE FEW**

Amendment / Alteration – request to alter the wording of a motion

Proposed by Councillor David Elderton

Seconded by Councillor Gerry Ellis

Delete all after ‘therefore’ in the final paragraph and insert:

welcomes the rejection of coastal parking charges as proposed by the Cabinet Member for Highways following the rejection of similar proposals for our high streets and shopping areas in 2017 and urges the Leader of the Council to similarly remove parking charges in our country parks forthwith.

(3) **Notice of Motion No. 2 – KEEPING WIRRAL PARKS AND COASTAL AREAS AVAILABLE FOR THE MANY NOT THE FEW**

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Stuart Whittingham

Seconded by Councillor Phil Davies

In bullet point one, add –

compared to the £250 million slashed from Wirral Council’s budget by Tory austerity policies.

Delete the final paragraph and replace with –

Council congratulates the Leader of the Council for having considered the results of the consultation on proposed parking charges and taking the sensible step of rejecting them, demonstrating his administration's un-wavering support for Wirral's visitor economy, and despite the enormous pressures Tory cuts are placing on the council, for his commitment to listen and act in the best interests of Wirral residents.

(4) Notice of Motion No. 4 – SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL ACTION TO TACKLE OBESITY

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Adam Sykes

Seconded by Councillor Wendy Clements

Original motion with numbered paragraphs:

- 1) The Council notes that obesity is a major public health concern with the majority of adults in England being overweight or obese and more than a third of our 10 to 11 years old being overweight or obese.
- 2) It is estimated that obesity is responsible for more than 30,000 deaths each year. Being overweight or obese increases the risk of a wide range of diseases including Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and many cancers. It also negatively affects quality of life and mental wellbeing.
- 3) No one is 'immune' to obesity, but some people are more likely to become overweight or obese than others. Factors of income, social deprivation and ethnicity all have an important impact on the likelihood of person becoming obese. Data from the National Child Measurement Programme shows that obesity levels in the most deprived 10% of children is approximately double that of the least deprived 10%.
- 4) Obesity places a huge strain on health and social care as well as having a broader impact on economic development. The estimated annual cost of obesity in England is around £32.5 billion and if no action is taken these costs will increase.
- 5) Council recognises that the causes of obesity are complex. Environmental, physiological and behavioural factors all interrelate and play their part in influencing the prevalence of obesity. This is why at a local level Wirral has a wide range of activities to tackle obesity. This includes providing a 0 to 19 service working with schools and 0-5s to be health promoting, a number of services providing weight management support and having health promoting planning policies.

- 6) However, Council feels more needs to be done by national government to support the efforts of local areas and we call upon the Government to lead on three areas of action:
- 7) Firstly Implement the Food Revolution actions.
- 8) This is a campaign led by the Jamie Oliver Food Foundation and its Australian partners at the Good Foundation. It is committed to inspiring real, meaningful, positive change in the way children access, consume and understand food.
- 9) Working with medical experts and professionals Food Revolution has created a six-point plan for action which they believe governments across the world should be working towards as a priority.
- 10) Council welcomes that the UK government has implemented the first action, which is the introduction of a sugary drink tax, but strongly advocate that the government also acts upon the other 5 actions. These are;
- 11) 1. The introduction of sugar reformulation targets to reduce excessive sugar in all products and have penalties for non-compliance;
- 12) 2. Introduce fair marketing which would include a ban on food advertising targeted at children and cutting promotion of sugary products;
- 13) 3. Making clearer labelling mandatory with clear on-pack sugar information, such as traffic light labelling and having restrictions on portion sizes for confectionary and sugary drinks;
- 14) 4. Improving access to healthy food at schools for all children and prioritise food education in schools and,
- 15) 5. Providing greater education including clear national guides on what nutritious daily meals look like. This would include practical resources for both parents and teachers and better consistency between the classroom and home.
- 16) Secondly Tackle Food Poverty
- 17) An affordable healthy diet is vital for good health. However, we know many people, due to rising food prices, low wages and reductions in benefits, have an insufficient income to buy healthy food. This 'food poverty' trap results in families cutting back on fresh fruit and vegetables and buying cheap, sweet, fatty, salty, or processed foods that need little cooking.
- 18) This results in poorer people having worse diets, greater levels of obesity and poorer health. Across the Liverpool City region many families are living in poverty and there is high demand on food banks.
- 19) Whilst there is considerable work across the Liverpool City Region (LCR) to tackle poverty, illustrated in the commitment set out in The LCR Child Poverty and Life Chances Strategy, more needs to be done nationally. We call upon the

UK government as the world's sixth largest economy to do more to end food poverty. Food banks should not become a substitute for an effective welfare system and fair work which includes earning a living wage.

- 20) Thirdly introduce a fairer and greater obesity focus of the use of sugar levy funding
- 21) Council welcomes the government's sugary drinks levy with the money raised to improve PE and sport for primary-aged pupils to encourage healthy and active lifestyles.
- 22) The funding is to be allocated directly to primary schools, based on the number of pupils in years 1 to 6. There is no adjustment for deprivation. We believe to make the greatest impact the funding should be weighted to those with greatest health needs. The National Child Measurement Programme figures show it is the areas with greater deprivation which have a comparably higher proportion of children who are obese, compared to areas in the least deprived areas. If the funding was allocated direct to Local Authorities, rather than to individual schools, there would be greater potential to ensure resources were utilised to meet the needs across the local area.
- 23) Furthermore as obesity is influenced by both energy expended and energy consumed to tackle obesity we would like to see the criteria for this funding to also include activities which will help children and families make healthier food and drink choices.
- 24) In conclusion we strongly believe that more needs to be done on a national level to address the public health issue of obesity.
- 25) This Council therefore agrees that the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health should write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and ask him to give healthy weight a greater priority by:
- 26) • Implementing all of the Food Revolution actions;
- 27) • Tackling Food Poverty and,
- 28) • Having a fairer and greater obesity focus of the use of sugar levy funding including allocation to Local Authorities rather than to individual schools

Delete 'Implement' from paragraph 7 and *insert* 'Review'

Insert "with a focus on promoting healthy choices" to the end of paragraph 7.

Delete "acts upon" from paragraph 10 and *insert* "investigates the potential benefits, keeping in mind maintaining choice for citizens, of"

Delete "However, we know many people, due to rising food prices, low wages and reductions in benefits, have an insufficient income to buy healthy food. This 'food poverty' trap results in families cutting back on fresh fruit and vegetables and buying

cheap, sweet, fatty, salty, or processed foods that need little cooking.” from paragraph 17.

Delete “This results in” and *insert* “Evidence shows” in paragraph 18.

Insert after paragraph 20, “The cost of a £1 cheeseburger could also buy a kilo of sweet potatoes, two kilos of carrots or 10 apples, a 2017 study showed. Whilst, acknowledging the energy costs of cooking meals, healthier choices are still cheaper than their more unhealthy counterparts. Data from 78 common food products across Tesco and Asda found that healthier options are generally cheaper than healthier alternatives. In fact, it was found that subsidising healthy foods would be unlikely to change eating habits and would instead transfer money from the poor to the rich. Therefore, more must be done to understand the reasons behind this phenomenon without jumping to conclusions that fit an ideological narrative.”

Delete “There is no adjustment for deprivation” from paragraph 22.

Delete “The National Child Measurement Programme figures show it is the areas with higher greater deprivation which have a comparably higher proportion of children who are obese, compared to areas in the least deprived areas. If the funding was allocated direct to Local Authorities, rather than to individual schools, there would be greater potential to ensure resources were utilised to meet the needs across the local area.” from paragraph 22

Delete “Implement” from paragraph 26 and insert “Review”.

Add “with a focus on promoting healthy choices, while respecting freedom of choice” to paragraph 26

Delete “including allocation to Local Authorities rather than to individual schools” from paragraph 28

Insert a final paragraph to the motion:

Council also notes that, as well as healthier food options, promoting more active lifestyles including walking, running, cycling and dog walking also have a part to play and therefore Council believes that those on the lowest incomes should not be discouraged from using Wirral’s leisure and recreation facilities including through the imposition of parking charges at our country parks.

(5) Notice of Motion No. 5 – CAMPAIGN FOR A PEOPLE’S VOTE

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Stuart Whittingham

Seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes

Delete the last paragraph and replace with the following:

Council believes that it is of grave concern that, when challenged by business over the threat to jobs and investment, a Cabinet Minister should use a four letter expletive to describe his apparent approach towards this country's business interests. The Financial Times summed this up in that: "It may have been a casual aside but it was also a revealingly contemptuous one, not least in its indifference to the fate of Airbus's [and other industrial] UK staff. This is the strategic nihilism of a spoiled child lashing out."

Council is therefore of the view that an open joint letter should be sent from the leaders of the Wirral political parties to Theresa May, stressing the importance of employers such as Airbus, Vauxhall and Jaguar Land Rover to Wirral, the wider region and the potentially devastating effect on those businesses, the wider supply chain and our local economy in the event of the UK leaving the EU with a bad deal or no deal. The letter should also set out that any deal with the EU must encompass the following:

- (a) Put the national interest first
- (b) Prioritise jobs and living standards
- (c) Protect rights at work
- (d) Protect environmental standards
- (e) Provide certainty to EU nationals living here in the UK and UK nationals who have chosen to live elsewhere in the EU
- (f) Give a meaningful role to Parliament throughout negotiations.

(6) Notice of Motion No. 6 – REMEMBERING SREBRENICA

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Wendy Clements

Seconded by Councillor Paul Hayes

Insert after the final bullet point:

- Thanks Wirral’s Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE) and their colleagues for the work to mark Holocaust Memorial Day which includes the genocide in Srebrenica